

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /072 W

-----092004Z 095128 /64

R 091229Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3516

PASS LABOR FOR ILAB

PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

IO FOR PALMER

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

CAIRO FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BODY

REF: STATE 89716

1. SUMMARY: QUESTIONS RAISED BY NIGERIAN LABATT
HERE INDICATE THAT THE NIGERIANS AND PRHAPS OTHER
AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE PROSPECT
OF ELECTING THE CANADIANWORKER TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE GOVERNING BODY (GB). END SUMMARY.

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2. THE NIGERIAN LABOR ATTACHE, F.O. WILLIAMS, ASKED US
IF THE ELECTION OF JOE MORRIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED
AS THE SCHEDULED TURN OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE GB
CHAIRMANSHIP. WE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, POINTING
OUT THAT THE EC NINE AND IMEC HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUE
AND APPARENTLY AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE SPECIAL AND

NOT A REGIONAL TURN. WILLIAMS ASKED WHETHER MORRIS' ELECTION WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR A RECIPROCAL "EMPLOYERS TURN" AND FOR A NEW PATTERN OF GOVERNMENT/ WORKER/EMPLOYER TURNS FOR THE GB CHAIRMANSHIP; IF SO, WILLIAMS SAID ANY WORKER OR EMPLOYER COULD GET THE SUPPORT OF HIS GROUP AND BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD BOTH WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WERE SUPPORTING MORRIS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A SIMILAR SPECIAL RETIREMENT "SEND-OFF" FOR EMPLOYER GROUP LEADER BERGENSTROM WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. EVERYONE WE HAVE SPOKEN TO ASSUMES THAT BOTH THE MORRIS AND BERGENSTROM TURNS WOULD BE SPECIAL EVENTS WHICH DO NOT IMPLY ANY PERMANENT CHANGE IN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT FOR REGIONAL ROTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE GB. HOWEVER, WE ADMITTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN THE FUTURE, RETIRING LEADERS OF THE EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS MIGHT ALSO BE ELECTED UNDER THE MORRIS PRECEDENT. WILLIAMS THEN EXPRESSED FEAR THAT A WORKER OR EMPLOYER GB CHAIRMAN, SITTING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAM, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (PFAC)

WOULD NOT MAKE A SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE BUDGETARY INCREASES. WE DOUBTED WHETHER IN PRACTICE THE CHAIRMAN HAD THAT MUCH INFLUENCE ON PFAC PROCEEDINGS; WE ADDED THAT SINCE MORRIS WAS SUPPORTED BY WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE U.S., HIS ELECTION WAS ALMOST CERTAIN AND WE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENTS WOULD COPE WITH THE NEW SITUATION. SORENSON
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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